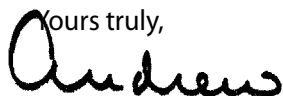


HEATING ASSISTANCE

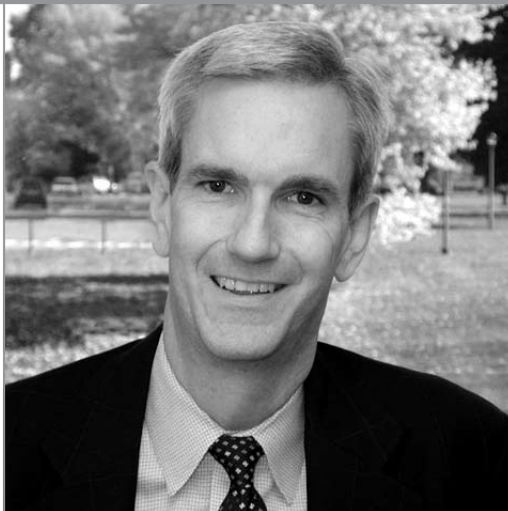
Dear Neighbor,

We've all heard about the extraordinary prices that we are going to be paying this winter to heat our homes. But people should not have to choose between necessities like food, medicine, rent or a mortgage just to stay warm. I'm proud to say we recently passed legislation that will offer home heating assistance to a wide variety of Connecticut families this season.

On the other side of this mailer are some highlights of the Emergency Energy Assistance bill that recently passed the House and Senate during our special session. The governor has since signed the bill into law.

Yours truly,


Andrew J. McDonald
State Senator, 27th District



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YOUR STATE SENATOR ANDREW J. McDONALD

INFORMATION ON WINTER HEATING ASSISTANCE

Expands Energy Assistance

Increases the current, basic benefit by \$200 for eligible households. The bill also provides a new \$300 benefit for households that earn no more than 60% of the state median income based on family size, and provides an additional \$200 crisis benefit for these households that utilize “deliverable” fuels. Please call the Department of Social Services at 1-800-842-1132 or Infoline at 211 for more information.

Establishes HEARTH Program

Establishes a **H**ome **E**nergy **A**ssistance and **R**eimbursements for **T**une-Ups on **H**eating **E**quipment program that reimburses Connecticut families \$50 per household for heating equipment tune-ups or the installation of energy-saving material. If you are currently receiving energy assistance, call the numbers listed above. The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) will administer the HEARTH program for households that are **not** currently receiving energy assistance. These households must apply for a pre-qualification certificate, which will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, call 1-800-286-2214.

Creates a Sales Tax Exemption

Creates a sales tax exemption from November 25 to April 1, 2006, on residential weatherization products including certain new furnaces that meet federal “Energy Star” requirements.

Protects Against Price Gouging, Monitors Prices

Expands the current price gouging law to include the period preceding an “abnormal market disruption,” such as acts of nature, energy shortages or disruptions, war, or local or national emergencies. The bill increases the fines for price gouging.

Provides Low-Interest Home Improvement Loans and Aid to Residential Facilities

Offers low-interest loans to make energy-efficient home improvements, and provides a pool of \$2 million for various state supported residential facilities—such as nursing homes—to seek supplemental heating cost assistance. Please call 1-800-992-3665 for more information on these low-interest loans.

